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01/15/2014 Minutes

01/15/2014Minutes for the ABAC meeting of January 15, 2014

Board members attending were Ron Sender, Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Doug Greenfield and Christopher Tonkin. Scott Smith and Phil Goff were absent. Stephen Quinn was also present.

*Approval of the minutes of the December meeting. The minutes of the December meeting were approved, by unanimous vote, after amendments were made.

Minuteman Bikeway Friends Group. Stephan outlined his communication with Terry Gleason of the Bedford Bicycle Committee and Friends Group. He updated Terry about ABAC discussions about starting a Friends group in Arlington. Terry is eager to get started and Stephan agreed to ask ABAC to establish a working group as a point of contact for the existing Bikeway Friends groups in Lexington and Bedford. Ron, Stephan and Christopher were designated as the Arlington Friends Working Group of ABAC. We then had a debate about what relationship (if any) there will be between the Bikeway Friends Group (BFG) and ABAC. The consensus was that there were more advantages to eventually having two separate organizations.

Stephan asked if anyone was in contact with Charlie McCabe, a new resident of Arlington, who volunteered to help start a BFG. Charlie attended a recent ABAC meeting to present his idea and ask for our support. We informed him that there was, as yet, no such group in Arlington and we felt that there was a need for one. In addition we told him that there were long-standing BFGs in Lexington and Bedford. We concluded that we should work on establishing a BFG in Arlington, initially as a working group of ABAC but eventually to become independent. The relationship of the Arlington BFG with existing BFGs in other towns was left to be settled at a future date. Stephan will contact Charlie and try to get things started.

Letter to the Bedford Board of Selectmen about the linkage between the Minuteman Bikeway and the Minuteman Extension. Jack has written a letter which we all approved by email. ABAC feels that the connection between the two paths in Bedford is not analogous to the break in the Minuteman Bikeway in Arlington Center. Pushing for a cycle track at this time seems unwarranted and could antagonize abutters and endanger the completion of the Minuteman Extension. We recommend clearly marked bike lanes to facilitate way-finding and safety. We will send the letter to Terry to present to the Bedford Bicycle Committee before it is sent to their BOS.

ABAC Winter Social. Stephen will check with the speaker, George Reynolds, about the content of his talk. Once that is accomplished, Jack will release his publicity blitz. There has been some miscommunication with the second speaker, Nina Fischer, so we are not sure that she will be presenting. At the last meeting Joey told us that she was communicating with Nina but we haven't heard whether her appearance has been finalized. Stephan and Christopher will provide refreshments.

Fall bike tour/joint community event with the Medford Bicycle Committee. The Medford Committee requested that we set a date for this event. We discussed the difficulties of scheduling events in September but came up with Sunday, September 7.

Other Topics and News. Jack requested that we set a date for this year's BIKE-Arlington Tour. He suggested that we hold the Tour on Sunday, May 18, the last day of Bike Week. Christopher asked if there are any conflicting bicycle events on that day. Jack answered that there are events scheduled for that day but none are local so we designated May 18 as the date for the Tour. We then debated about possible routes but decided to leave the final route to a future date when the weather will allow us to do a test ride.

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

*indicates that a vote of the ABAC Board was taken.
Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller.